

REMARKS

2. Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,733,472 issued to Belcourt (hereinafter referred to as "Belcourt").

Claims 1, 4-6, and 25-32 have been canceled.

Regarding claim 13, the rejection states that Belcourt discloses a hand held rotary cutter, wherein the cutting blade is rotatably mounted on a clip assembly and refers to FIG. 5 of Belcourt for support. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Belcourt and the rejection based thereon.

FIG. 5 of Belcourt discloses a can opener blade 9 mounted on the shaft 32 of a commercial can opener. A spring 33 is disposed between one side of the blade 9, and a shaft support 31. A screw 35, disposed on the opposite side of the blade 9, retains the blade 9 on the shaft 32.

Amended claim 13 recites a hand-held rotary cutter for cutting thin sheet materials that includes a handle and a replaceable cutting blade assembly. The assembly includes a cutting blade rotatably mounted on a clip. The clip is selectively attachable to the handle to permit replacement of the cutting blade.

In Belcourt, the blade 9 is mounted on a shaft 32 of a commercial can opener. The blade is held on the shaft by a screw 35. It is clear from FIG. 5 that there is no disclosure within Belcourt of a blade that is mounted on a clip, which clip is mounted on a handle. Consequently, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a rotary cutter having a clip selectively attachable to a handle to permit replacement of a cutting blade, which blade is rotatably mounted on the clip. The cited reference cannot, therefore, anticipate the subject matter claimed in amended claim 13.

For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

3. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,758,426 issued to Richter (hereinafter referred to as “Richter”).

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 28-30 have been cancelled.

5. Claims 1, 4-6, 13 and 25-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Belcourt in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,581,897 issued to Liebscher (hereinafter referred to as “Liebscher”).

Claims 1, 4-6, and 25-32 have been cancelled.

Regarding claim 13, applicants direct the Examiner to the comments above relating to Belcourt. To summarize those comments, there is no disclosure within Belcourt of a blade that is mounted on a clip, which clip is mounted on a handle. Consequently, there is no disclosure or suggestion of a rotary cutter having a clip selectively attachable to a handle to permit replacement of a cutting blade, which blade is rotatably mounted on the clip.

The rejection indicates that Liebscher teaches a handle having a handgrip portion. The disclosure of Liebscher does not cure the identified shortcomings of the Belcourt reference. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not obvious in view of Belcourt, Liebscher, or the combination thereof.

New claims 33-35 have been added to recite additional claims that patentably define the present invention over the prior art of record. Claims 33-35 recite a circular cutting blade having a cutting edge with a cross-sectional geometry that is patentably distinct from the prior art references of record. In addition, these claims recite that the cutting blade and the manner in which the blade is mounted on the handle permits the rotary cutter to be maneuvered in a directionally unrestricted manner across the thin sheet material. All of the prior art references relied upon within the rejections are can openers that are not capable of being maneuvered in a directionally unrestricted manner across thin sheet material. Support for new claims 33-35 can be found, *inter alia*, on pages 4 and 5 of the present specification and FIGS. 1, 3, and 4.

As applicants have traversed the rejections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the stated rejections, allow claim 13 and new claims 33-35, and pass the present application on to issuance.

Applicants include herewith a fee in the amount of \$ 905.00 is provided herewith for: a) an RCE fee in the amount of \$395 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(e); and b) a three month extension fee in the amount of \$510 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a)(3). The fee for having more than three independent claims was paid earlier. In the event any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3381.

Respectfully submitted,

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